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Jun 18th 2019

Via ECFS  
Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

**Re: In the Matter of Petition of USTelecom for Forbearance Pursuant to  
47 U.S.C. Section 160(c); WC Docket No. 18-141; Category 1**

Dear FCC,

Recently I learned that AT&T, Verizon and other major carriers are attempting to throw independent internet providers off their unused leased lines, claiming that the public does not appreciate the service that they provide. This is not the case! Not only are they able to provide DSL to their customers at competitive prices but are able to expand and upgrade their equipment to provide superior performance by adding enhancements such as fiber.

I switched to my current fiber service because my previous provider was only willing to furnish an inferior product while forcing me to accept a bundled package I did not want at higher cost. Competition is good for the public and quality internet is critical for the security of the country in this digital age. It is not the giant corporations that are sticking their necks out to increase the penetration of broadband internet to rural and poorer areas but the independents who are doing it in most cases.

Perhaps the FCC believes that the unused lines in question are their own property and they can do what they want with them. This is not really the case because their wires are strung on utility poles they do not own and they are in cities and towns that give them permission to be there only because they provide service for their citizens. I am sure they are watching your behavior too!

Sincerely,

William Kolbe